

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 SP-02 INR-10 PM-05 NSC-05
DODE-00 CIAE-00 /048 W
-----078739 111958Z /42 S
R 110351Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY MUSCAT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4219

C O N F I D E N T I A L MUSCAT 0501

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS, MU
SUBJECT: OMANI MILITARY REQUESTS

REF: (A) MUSCAT 0403, (B) MUSCAT 0431

1. FONMIN ZAWAWI IN APRIL 6 DISCUSSION PURSUED SUBJECT FURTHER, SAYING OMAN NOW KNOWS WHERE IT STANDS WITH US ON C-130S BUT IS CONCERNED ABOUT APPARENT TURNDOWNS ON MORE TOW LAUNCHERS/MISSILES AND 175 MM ARTILLERY. HE CONFIRMED THAT TOW MISSILE MISUNDERSTANDING HAD BEEN EXACTLY AS WE GUESSED (REF B) AND THAT SULTAN IS PLEASED THE RESUPPLY MECHANICS FOR MISSILES SOLD IN 1975 ARE BEING TENDED TO IN ROUTINE FASHION.

2. I AGAIN WENT OVER SAME GROUND WITH ZAWAWI AS ON MARCH 21 (REF A) LEAVING HIM IN NO DOUBT THAT OBTAINING OUR AGREEMENT TO SELL ADDITIONAL TOW LAUNCHERS/MISSILES AND LONG-RANGE ARTILLERY WOULD BE EXTREMELY UNLIKELY. SAID THAT I MUST DEFINITELY DISCOURAGE HIM FROM THINKING ANYTHING WOULD COME OF OMAN'S RE-OPENING THESE QUESTIONS. AS HE SEEMED DETERMINED TO PURSUE ONE OR BOTH OF THEM, I SUGGESTED HE FIRST GO INTO ASPECTS OF NEED, PRIORITIES AND QUANTITIES THOROUGHLY WITH OMAN'S OWN MILITARY ESTABLISHMENT, INCLUDING SOLF AND MOD, TO SEE WHAT KIND OF A CASE, AND WHAT ALTERNATIVES, REALLY EXISTED.
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3. COMMENT. I THREW OUT LATTER SUGGESTION IN HOPE OF DEFLECTING THE QABOOS/LANDON/ZAWAWI PITCH WE HAVE BEEN GETTING INTO A MORE SENSIBLE OMANI IN-HOUSE CONSULTATION PROCESS. SEEMS TO ME IF THEY HEED IT, CSOLF GEN. O'MORCHOE MAY BE EXPRESSING HIS OWN LUKEWARM VIEWS ABOUT MORE TOWS AND ULTRA-SOPHISTICATED ARTILLERY BE

ABLE TO KEEP THESE REQUESTS FROM BEING SURFACED AGAIN.
WOLLE

NOTE BY OC/T: DISTRIBUTION COORDINATED WITH S/S-O - MR. HART.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY SALES, TRANSPORT AIRCRAFT, MISSILES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978MUSCAT00501
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780156-0131
Format: TEL
From: MUSCAT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780470/aaaachrt.tel
Line Count: 66
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 249df0b2-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 MUSCAT 403, 78 MUSCAT 431
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 jun 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3010325
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: OMANI MILITARY REQUESTS
TAGS: MASS, MU
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/249df0b2-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014